(b) Two postst of Vice-Chairman (Judicial) and 14 posts of Member (Judicial) are vacant.

(c) to (f) The vacancies of Vice-Chair man (Judicial) and Member (Judicial) were advertised in December 1992 and June 1993. Eligible candidates were interviewed in December 1993 and January 1994. Panel recommended by the Selection Committee has been approved. Offers of appointment for 2 Vice-Chairman and 11 Members have already issued and they have been requested to joi$_n$ by 31.8.94. Remaining offers will be issued on completion of formalities.

Operation of Luxury Tourist Tra'ns

2225. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH;
SHRi PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the pla$_n$ t© involve the private sector in the operation of five luxury tourists trains;

(b) which are the proposed routes of the five luxury trains and by what time the proposed luxury trains are expected to become operational; and

(c) what will be the Railway's initial expenditure on these trains and how much annual profit is expected to be earned by the Railways from this scheme?

THE MINISTER, OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have invited bids from Public and Private Sectors for ownership; Marketing and Management of Tourist Trains on the following routes:

1. Delhi - Jaipur - Agra - Gwalior -Jhansi - Varanasi - Lucknow - Delhi.
2. Goa (Madgaon) - Mangalore -Mysore - Hosi;t - Bangalore - Goa (Madgoan).
3. Bombay - Aurangabad - Nanded - Secundcrabad - Hyderabad - Pune - Bomba :.
4. Howr.Ji - Gaya - Varanasi -Gorakhpur - Bhubaneswar - Puri -Howr^ .
5. Bangalore - Mysore - Madras - Kodaikanal Read - Kany- Kumari - Trivendrum - Cochin - Mertupa-iayum - Bangalore.

In response to the global invitation to bid issued by the Ministry of Railways; twenty three bid$_s$ were received upto the closing date i.e. 25th July; 1994. The bids ar$_e$ now being evaluated by the Tender Committee for awarding the contract to **the** successful bidder. Lead time for construction and launching of the tourist trains will be one year from the date of finalisation of contract. No expenditure is being incurred by the Railways as the capital cost [a]«d cost of haulage and maintenance is to be borne by the Tourist Train Operator. Besides these costs, the successful bidders will also be required to share a minimum 15 per cent of their gross turnover from the operation of the tourist train service.

.Reduction in working expenses..

2226. SHRI SUSHHJOJMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: SHRIMATl VEENA VERMA;

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an action plan alongwith economy measures undertaken by the Railways in 1993-94 has resulted in reduction of working expenses to the tune of Rs. *200 crores during the year; and

(b) if so; the details of th$_e$ measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF); (a) and (b) From 1989-90 onwards